

cell service on one part of my property, but I can usually get a signal if I walk to another part of my property.

From a business standpoint, the very spotty service is a real hindrance. When I am on the road, I often can't be contacted by customers or employees at the hardware store. When calling each other on the cell phone here in town, we often have to leave voicemails as the party you are trying to call is out of range.

Jonesport is a fishing community. There is no cell service down in the harbor, although they eventually get service as they motor out to sea. The fishermen rely on me to get parts for their boats and it is frustrating when they can't contact me from the harbor on their cell phones. This is very inconvenient as they have to come ashore to arrange for parts.

Q4. Does this complete your testimony?

A4. Yes.

**STATE OF MAINE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

DOCKET NO. 2004-246

**US CELLULAR
RE: APPLICATION FOR DESIGNATION AS AN
ELIGIBLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER
UNDER 47 U.S.C § 214(e)(2)**

**DIRECT TESTIMONY
OF MICHAEL CHURCH**

Q1. Please state your name, affiliation, title and business address.

A1. My name is Michael Church. I am a construction contractor working out of Jonesport, Maine. My business address is P.O. Box 88, Jonesport, Maine 04649.

Q2. Are you familiar with US Cellular and its proposal to provide cellular service in the town of Jonesport?

A2. Yes. US Cellular is a cellular service provider and I understand they are proposing to provide and improve cellular service in various parts of rural Maine including Jonesport. I understand that US Cellular has filed an application with the Maine Public Utilities Commission seeking to qualify to receive federal funds that would enable them to make the necessary infrastructure improvements to expand service into Jonesport and other areas in Maine.

Q3. Are you familiar with the quality of cellular service in the Jonesport area?

A3. Yes. I use cellular phones for both personal use and business purposes. We have four cell phones in my household. The one that I use for business purposes is an old, large, clunky bag phone, because it often provides better reception than the small handheld phones, although it is not as practical. In downtown Jonesport, if you are not in exactly the right spot,

you cannot get any reception at all. I often work on islands, so we have to travel back and forth to job sites by boat. Cellular service is very problematic out on the water. You can be in your own local zone but the cell phones still do not pick up the local signal, so you get Canadian roaming charges, not only on the calls you make but also on incoming calls you receive. Therefore, every month you have to go over your confusing bill and sort through all of your charges to determine if any of the Canadian roaming charges were in fact local calls. US Cellular would adjust the bill, but by the time you sort through it all and contact US Cellular about the roaming charges, you have already wasted a lot of valuable time.

Q4. How will the proposed improvements affect your community?

A4. Construction work can often be dangerous. Workers are often high up on rooftops and staging, working with heavy equipment. Therefore, it is important that we can quickly call for help from the job site in the event of an emergency. Because of the inconsistency and unreliability of cellular service in and around Jonesport, one of the first things I have to do on every job site is to install a landline for a portable telephone that we can use on site. I often have to replace these phones, since they tend to get wet or damaged being left on construction sites. Maintaining these landlines is both costly and inconvenient. Further, landline service does not necessarily include a voicemail system or an answering machine, so the convenience of a messaging system on a landline would be an additional expense. If I could rely on my own cell phone to work consistently, there would be no need to go through the burdensome process of installing landlines at each job site.

In addition to needing a phone on the job sites for safety reasons, reliable cellular service would also be beneficial from a business standpoint. I need to be able to make and receive calls when I am on job sites, as well as while I am in my truck. I often need to order things that could

be delivered to the site, or that I can pick up on my way. Further, clients and potential clients often try to contact me while I am in my truck, but I cannot always get these calls because of the inconsistent cellular service throughout Jonesport. Or, if I do get cellular calls, I get charged for roaming.

Q5. Does this complete your testimony?

A5. Yes.

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**DIRECT TESTIMONY
OF BOYDE CROWLEY**

Q1. Please state your name, affiliation, title and business address.

A1. My name is Boyde Crowley. I am the Fire Chief for the Town of Jonesport Fire Department, and have been for six years. I've been on the department since about the 1980. The Town of Jonesport has a volunteer fire department, and I am currently the only paid employee. My business address is P.O. Box 489, Jonesport, Maine 04649. I live in Jonesport.

Q2. Are you familiar with US Cellular and its proposal to provide cellular service in the town of Jonesport?

A2. Yes. I know that US Cellular provides cellular service in many parts of Maine and I understand that they are intending to improve cellular service in various parts of rural Maine including Jonesport. As I understand it, US Cellular has filed an application with the Maine Public Utilities Commission seeking to qualify for funding from a federal fund. If the Maine Public Utilities Commission approves US Cellular's application for this funding, it will be able to make the necessary improvements to expand service into Jonesport.

Q3. Are you familiar with the quality of cellular service in Jonesport?

A3. Yes. There is almost no cell service in the Jonesport. There are some spots at

higher ground levels where you might get some service, depending on the weather, but even when you do get some service it is so sketchy that it is hard to get people to understand what you are saying.

Q4. How will the proposed improvements affect your community?

A4. From an emergency personnel perspective, cell phones would be greatly beneficial. We would certainly keep a cellular phone in the fire truck if service were reliable. We considered getting a cellular phone for the truck at one time, but we figured there would not be much point in doing so because of the lack of service throughout most of the area. We would have to run to the highest spot we could find, just to try and get a signal to make a call that we could wind up losing. That would not be very helpful in an emergency. Therefore, when we are on an emergency run, the only communication system we have is the radio system, which is dispatched through the Regional Communications Center ("RCC"). However, in Jonesport, two-way radio reception is not even that great, and on occasion I have been unable to get through to the RCC on my radio. I've had to run around to neighbors' houses for a landline in order to get through to the RCC, because I could not reach them on my cell phone or on the radio. Further, if a major emergency happens, the radio airwaves could become clogged with transmissions. Cellular phones would lessen the RCC's burden, so that a crisis could be handled much more efficiently and safely. For example, if we needed food, water, or other supplies, we could use cellular phones to contact the source directly, instead of having to go through the RCC and have them make the call.

The time-saving convenience of cellular service would not only benefit our department, but could help the whole community, particularly when one comes across trouble. For instance,

on two different occasions, while driving on Route 187 between Jonesport and Addison (about 5 miles from Jonesport), I came across car accidents. Both times, I tried to use my cell phone to call for help for the accident victims, who were injured and needed immediate medical assistance. I needed to contact the Addison Fire Department and ambulance service, but I could not even get through to 911 on my cellular phone. Both times, I ran to the nearest landline, banging on people's doors. I finally got help, but precious time was wasted. Time can be a matter of life or death in an emergency, and cellular phones save time.

There are also personal reasons why reliable cellular phone service is important to me. In fact, the reason we got our personal family cell phone is for my wife and I to stay in touch with our son who is away at college. It would be nice if he were able to reach us when we were not at home, and it would be nice not to lose the call when we are traveling and approach the Jonesport area. It would be nice for the community, all around, to have reliable, consistent cellular service.

Q5. Does this complete your testimony?

A5. Yes.

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**DIRECT TESTIMONY
OF VALERIE GRAY**

Q1. Please state your name, affiliation, title and business address.

A1. My name is Valerie Gray. I am an Emergency Medical Technician for the Moosabec Ambulance Service, which serves Jonesport and Beals, and also serves as back up to surrounding towns in eastern Washington County. My business address is P.O. Box 164, Jonesport, Maine. I live in Jonesport, Maine.

Q2. Are you familiar with US Cellular and its proposal to provide cellular service in the town of Jonesport?

A2. Yes. I know that US Cellular provides cellular service in many parts of Maine, and I understand that they are intending to improve cellular service in various parts of rural Maine, including Jonesport. As I understand it, based on my discussions with the company's representatives, US Cellular has filed an application with the Maine Public Utilities Commission seeking to qualify for funding from a federal fund. If the Maine Public Utilities Commission approves US Cellular's application for this funding, it will be able to make the necessary improvements to expand service into Jonesport.

Q3. Are you familiar with the quality of cellular service in the Jonesport area?

A3. Yes. There is a lack of cellular service in the downtown Jonesport area, making

cellular phones very difficult to use in personal vehicles or in ambulances. For instance, I live two miles outside of downtown Jonesport. There is a spot in my driveway where I am able to get a signal and can make a call, but I lose that call as soon as I start to drive down the slope in the driveway. We do have cellular phones in the ambulance vehicles, but we are not always able to use them because of the dead spots throughout the Jonesport area. This is a problem and it really makes you feel like you are lost in the boonies.

Q4. How will the proposed improvements affect your community?

A4. Cellular service would improve safety and emergency response throughout the community. Ambulance personnel really need to communicate with the hospital in Machias regarding the patients as we bring them in. Sometimes we have to call from the emergency scene from the ambulance, or while still in town, for example, to quickly get a doctor's orders. If you cannot get a cellular signal, you have to rely on the ambulance radio to get that critical information. Also, I do not like to give patient reports over the radio. If I did, then sensitive information would be broadcast for the whole County to hear. Handheld radio service for crew member to crew member conversations, locally, might also be inconsistent or interrupted, due to bad weather or environmental factors, or simply because radio transmissions become jammed. For these reasons, cellular phones serve as an excellent backup for when radios are either inappropriate or unavailable, but a cell phone cannot be an effective tool without effective cellular service.

Further, in the event of a mass casualty or an emergency of any great magnitude, there really needs to be communication between our ambulance service and other ambulance services nearby, to discuss the severity of injuries, to determine how many response ambulances are necessary, and to determine ambulance locations and other important information. Reliable

cellular service would be a much more private and efficient method of communicating critical information if such a situation presented itself. When an emergency occurs, things are hectic at the communications center, and the dispatch officers have their hands full. It would help to be able to communicate from ambulance to ambulance without the need to go through the dispatch every time. Also, with cellular service throughout the entire area, additional emergency workers who were off duty could be contacted no matter where they were, to get them in to help out in an emergency, or to bring needed equipment or supplies.

Q5. Does your ambulance service utilize LifeFlight, a statewide critical response medical helicopter service?

A5. Yes, occasionally. When we need LifeFlight, it is there for us. However, emergency personnel arriving at the scene could potentially have to make an immediate, critical decision to contact LifeFlight. Cellular phones could expedite this process, while having to go through dispatch to get LifeFlight in an emergency could cost critical minutes.

Having cell service in the Jonesport area would greatly improve our ability to respond to emergencies.

Q6. Does this complete your testimony?

A6. Yes.

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**DIRECT TESTIMONY
OF CHIEF DEPUTY
SHERIFF SIDNEY
HUGHES**

Q1. Please state your name, affiliation, title and business address.

A1. My name is Sidney Hughes. I am the Chief Deputy of the Washington County Sheriff's Office, and have been for seven years. The town of Jonesport is within our jurisdiction. My business address is 47 Court Street, Machias, Maine 04654. I live in Lubec.

Q2. Are you familiar with US Cellular and its proposal to provide cellular service in the Town of Jonesport?

A2. Yes. I am aware of the fact that US Cellular provides cellular service in many parts of Maine. I understand that US Cellular is applying to the Maine Public Utilities Commission for eligibility to receive federal funds. If US Cellular can gain access to these funds, it will be able to provide cellular service in Jonesport.

Q3. Are you familiar with the quality of cellular service in the Jonesport area?

A3. Yes, it is spotty at best. In fact, there are only a couple of places you can get service in Jonesport. Our patrol cars are equipped with cellular phones for use throughout the County. We need to be able to communicate between the Sheriff's Office in Machias and the other towns that we

serve, including Jonesport. Because of the lack of a cellular tower in Jonesport, we have problems with cellular service in and around the Jonesport area. Officers traveling through Jonesport know they have to wait until they leave the Jonesport area before they can communicate through cell phones. The officers do have two-way radios in their cars, but radio transmission signals also have dead spots in some areas (though they are not as bad as the dead spots for cellular service).

Q4. How would the availability of cellular service affect your work and your community?

A4. When somebody needs our assistance, a call comes into the main office in Machias. The call is then dispatched through a radio system to an officer, who usually responds by going to the residence from which the call comes. Some situations to which our deputies must respond can be dangerous. For example, we often receive complaints of domestic violence. With reliable cellular service, officers could maintain contact with the complainant, as the officers could call the complainant back immediately upon receiving the dispatch. Officers could ask the complainant important questions (and get immediate answers) to such inquiries as "is the perpetrator still in the house?" or "does he have a gun?" If the perpetrator does have a gun, this is something the officer would want to know before coming through the door, and if the officer had a working cellular phone handy, he could quickly call for back up before entering the premises. Again, radio systems can be used, but that type of communication can be picked up on police scanners, which many people up here listen to regularly. If officers were able to make these inquiries from a car cellular phone, sensitive information would not need to be broadcast over the radio system for anyone with these scanners to hear. Also, the use of cellular phones in these situations would be more efficient and more accurate than radio dispatch because you would be cutting out the middle man. This would

save the responding officer a step, and would also free the dispatch officer up to take care of other things, like calling an ambulance or other emergency personnel if needed.

Additionally, reliable cellular phone use would save our deputies valuable time in their day-to-day routine. For instance, officers often need to call the main office from their cars for routine communications, such as warrant checks. Again, radio broadcasts are not the most private or efficient way to share such information. Also, we get "911 hang up" calls from time to time where a person calls 911 but hangs up before we can talk to him or her. With working cell phones readily available, officers, using Caller ID, could call the number from which the 911 hang up call came. The officers could then speak directly to the person at that number to determine if assistance is really needed. If the call was made in error, it would be nice to know that ahead of time, so that the officer would not have to go all the way to the residence just to find out if somebody there actually needs help or not.

For all of these safety and convenience reasons, I feel that cellular service needs to be expanded into Jonesport and other rural parts of Maine.

By the way, my wife and I live in Lubec and commute to our jobs in Machias. My wife works nights and drives home alone. In the 26 miles between Lubec and Machias there are numerous dead spots where the cell phone doesn't work. Getting cell service into this area would be a big convenience and would also enhance public safety. I hope U.S.Cellular would consider using some of this funding to improve service in that part of Washington County as well.

Q5. Does this complete your testimony?

A5. Yes.

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**DIRECT TESTIMONY
OF TOM KING**

Q1. Please state your name, affiliation, title and business address.

A1. My name is Tom King. I am the owner of T.A. King & Sons, Inc., a lumber yard and supply company located in Jonesport, Maine. I have lived in Jonesport since 1975 and my family has operated our lumber business in Jonesport since 1975.

Q2. Are you familiar with US Cellular and its proposal to provide cellular service in the town of Jonesport?

A2. Yes. US Cellular is a cellular service provider and I understand they are proposing to provide and improve cellular service in various parts of rural Maine including Jonesport. I understand that US Cellular has filed an application with the Maine Public Utilities Commission seeking to qualify to receive federal funds that would enable them to make the necessary infrastructure improvements to expand service into Jonesport and other areas in Maine.

Q3. Are you familiar with the quality of cellular service in the Jonesport area?

A3. Yes. It is not good. Being in a bottleneck area, it is very hard to get a signal in Jonesport. I do not own a cellular phone at this time because it is so hard to get a signal. I tried an old bag phone once before and got some service on that, but it was not convenient. I wanted

to have a handheld cell phone to carry around the yard, but that didn't pan out because the service is so poor.

Q4. How will the proposed improvements affect your community?

A4. Improved cellular service in the Jonesport area would make for better business all around. Many of my customers and salespeople use cellular phones to conduct business. Being isolated down here, you really need to be reachable by phone. I am always on the phone. I have two landlines and they are often both busy. Having a cellular phone as a back up would keep my business flowing even better. But because cellular service is not reliable in the area, business can be hindered. If we could just pick up our cell phones and know we are going to get a signal, we would be able to communicate quicker, which would expedite sales. Also, valuable time could be saved if we could rely on cellular phones when we are on the road. For example, salespeople could be contacted in their vehicles, to make various stops between points A and B, instead of first making a trip back up to the lumber yard.

Additionally, I sell certain marine and lobster supplies, so I deal with a lot of fishermen and lobstermen, and I know most of them have cell phones. It is often easier to get in touch with the Coast Guard through a cell phone as opposed to the radios because there is so much clutter on the radios sometimes. Even if they cannot reach the Coast Guard on the phone or radio, they can use a cell phone to call someone else in town, and that person could run down the street to the Coast Guard base and get help, so cell phones are good to have on the boats for safety reasons. Lobstermen should be able to rely on cellular service throughout the entire harbor, but they cannot always get a signal, especially when they are close to Jonesport.

The business and fishing industries in Jonesport would greatly benefit from having reliable cellular service.

Q5. Does this complete your testimony?

A5. Yes.

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**DIRECT TESTIMONY
OF TONIA MERCHANT**

Q1. Please state your name, affiliation, title and business address.

A1. My name is Tonia Merchant. For about four years, I have been the Office Manager for the Jonesport Town Office. My business address is Main Street, P.O. Box 489, Jonesport, Maine 04649. I have lived in Jonesport for most of my life.

Q2. Are you familiar with US Cellular and its proposal to provide cellular service in the town of Jonesport?

A2. Yes. I know that US Cellular provides cellular service in many parts of Maine, and I understand that they intend to improve cellular service in various parts of rural Maine including Jonesport. As I understand it, US Cellular has filed an application with the Maine Public Utilities Commission seeking to qualify for funding from a federal fund. If the Maine Public Utilities Commission approves US Cellular's application for this funding, it will be able to make the necessary infrastructure improvements to expand service into Jonesport.

Q3. Are you familiar with the quality of cellular service in the Jonesport area?

A3. Yes. I am a U.S. Cellular customer. The cell service in Jonesport is terrible. There are only a few high level places where you can get a signal, for example, up on the bridge, but

reception is still poor. In most of Jonesport, you have to have an antenna in order to get any signal at all, and even then you only get a couple of bars, so you can barely make a call, and there is a lot of static. Also, according to the US Cellular plan that I have, adding an antenna, which I was only able to purchase through Unicef, will nullify the US Cellular warranty. Further, I purchased a new phone and a new cellular service plan about a year ago, thinking that the new phone would improve the service, but it did not. I am dissatisfied with the cellular service in Jonesport.

Q4. How will the proposed improvements affect your community?

A4. Family life would benefit from the availability of reliable cellular phones. I am married to a fisherman, and he keeps a cell phone on his boat. However, the cellular phones only work in the harbor if the boat is far enough out on the water so that land is not blocking the signal. Additionally, if I am not at home, my husband could not necessarily reach me on my cell phone anyhow, because I am likely somewhere in Jonesport where I cannot get good reception on my end. If we both had working cell phones that we could carry around at all times, we would be able to keep in contact no matter where we were.

I could also keep better connected to my children if we had reliable cellular service throughout Jonesport.

It would be nice to be able to stay in touch with my husband and children, both for convenience as well as for safety. In fact, there are many safety reasons why cellular service would benefit our community. For example, many people enjoy snowmobiling and four-wheeling, and other dangerous sports and activities. They take their cell phones with them in case of an emergency, but basically they hope that nothing happens, because the chances of getting service if something happened is not good.

Reliable cellular service would also serve as a safety measure for car traveling. I used to work for the postal service, as a rural carrier, using my own personal vehicle. I would drive along rural roads alone, sometimes in inclement weather. If I broke down or got in an accident, I sure would want to be able to use my cell phone to call for help and to keep in contact with another person while I waited for help.

Having reliable cellular service in Jonesport would also improve the town's tourism industry. I hear a lot of complaints from tourists, who come to the Town Office to complain and to find out why they cannot get cellular service. Some of them are surprised that, in this day and age, their cell phones are basically useless in Jonesport. They have to use our outdoor payphone, and they are not too happy about it.

For all of these reasons, I believe that the provision of reliable cellular service in Jonesport is entirely in the best interests of our community.

Q5. Does this complete your testimony?

A5. Yes.

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**DIRECT TESTIMONY
OF EDWARD PELLON**

Q1. Please state your name, affiliation, title and business address.

A1. My name is Edward Pellon. Since 1984, I have owned a plumbing and heating business in Machias, and I also own and rent residential and commercial real estate in towns in the Washington County area, including Jonesport. I will soon complete my first term (and I am running for re-election) in Maine House District 32, which includes the town of Jonesport. I served 18 years as a Selectman for Machias. My business address is P.O. Box 381, Machias, Maine. I live in Machias.

Q2. Are you familiar with US Cellular and its proposal to provide cellular service in the town of Jonesport?

A2. Yes. I know that US Cellular provides cellular service in many parts of Maine, and I have been advised that they are intending to improve cellular service in various parts of rural Maine, including Jonesport. US Cellular has filed an application in this proceeding with the Maine Public Utilities Commission seeking to qualify to receive funding from the Universal Service Fund. If the Maine Public Utilities Commission determines that US Cellular is eligible for this funding, it will be

able to make the necessary infrastructure improvements to expand service into Jonesport and other parts of rural Maine.

Q3. Are you familiar with the quality of cellular service in Jonesport?

A3. Yes. Jonesport is a bad area, and it is not just Jonesport, but a lot of other area is dead, including places before you get into Jonesport, like Joneboro. In fact, if I go 6 miles outside of my home in Machias, I am likely to be in a dead spot.

Q4. How will the proposed improvements affect your community?

A4. As a business owner and as a landlord, I really depend on my four cellular phones to make and receive important phone calls. My customers, salespeople, and tenants also depend on my being reachable by cell phone, since I am on the road a lot, and people might need to get a hold of me in a hurry for various reasons. For example, I own 84 units of elderly housing throughout Jonesport, Lubec, and other areas. Often times, somebody may need to reach me to deal with a problem, such as a sewer back up or other tenant or housing problem. Because of all of the dead spots in the areas I travel, I may not be reachable for quite some time. This could cause safety problems, especially in the winter.

Also, I lease space to Meals for ME, a service that feeds about 60 people on-site in a dining room in one of the elderly housing units. The people that run Meals for ME may need to contact me if there are problems in the kitchen, for example, if the large walk-in freezer was not working properly, or if the grease traps clogged up and I need to send one of the plumbers over to take care of it.

Finally, it is just plain inconvenient not to be able to rely on cellular phones to communicate for business purposes. Just recently a salesman called me from near Jonesport but we were not able

to talk because of the poor reception, so he had to go and find a different location to call me back.

Things like that happen all the time. Poor cellular service really slows down business sometimes.

I support US Cellular's Application for ETC designation in this case and its plans to build a cellular tower in the Jonesport area.

Q5. Does this complete your testimony?

A5. Yes.

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**DIRECT TESTIMONY
OF RALPH SMITH**

Q1. Please state your name, affiliation, title and business address.

A1. My name is Ralph Smith. I am the First Selectmen for the Town of Jonesport. I also am the owner of Moosabec Mussels. My business address is P.O. Box 267, Jonesport, Maine 04649. I live in Jonesport.

Q2. Are you familiar with US Cellular and its proposal to provide cellular service in the town of Jonesport?

A2. Yes. I know that US Cellular provides cellular service in many parts of Maine and I understand that they are intending to improve cellular service in various parts of rural Maine including Jonesport. As I understand it, US Cellular has filed an application with the Maine Public Utilities Commission seeking to qualify for funding from a federal fund. If the Maine Public Utilities Commission approves US Cellular's application for this funding, it will be able to make the necessary infrastructure improvements to expand service into Jonesport.

Q3. Are you familiar with the quality of cellular service in the Jonesport area?

A3. Yes. I am a US Cellular customer. We are almost totally out of service in the town of Jonesport. There may be a few very tight spots where you can get a signal, but you

would have to learn and remember the exact location of those tight spots. Otherwise, your cell phone is basically useless in Jonesport, yet charges still show up on my cellular phone bill for attempted incoming or outgoing calls, even though they were unsuccessful. I am very concerned about the problems that we have with cellular service in Jonesport and I have contacted US Cellular about it. Personally, I have tried everything possible to get a cellular signal in Jonesport from my cell phone. I have purchased many different brands of phones, better antennae, upgrades, and other accessories, spending about \$400 trying to get extra output, but nothing works. The bottom line is we need a tower in the Jonesport area.

Q4. How will the proposed improvements affect your community?

A4. There are two major ways in which reliable cellular service would help our community: safety improvements and business development. The Town of Jonesport is a fishing community. At any given time, there may be 200 or more fishing boats in Moosabec area, which is a lot when you consider there are fewer than 6,000 people in all of the four towns in the area, Jonesport, Beals, Columbia Falls, and Addison. There are of course no landlines on the water, so all of these boats need to rely 100% on cellular phones or VHF radios if they need to reach somebody from out on the water. Unfortunately, however, these fishermen are unable to rely on cell phones. Because of the lack of cellular service in the Jonesport area, reception on the water is unlikely. Fishing can be a dangerous business. A lot of things can happen out on the water. Boats can break down, storms can hit, people can get hurt. The ability to quickly call for help could be critical to save a vessel and/or the people on board, and cellular service on the water would provide a quick way to call for help.

Having cellular service in Jonesport would also benefit the community from a business standpoint. I am the owner of Moosabec Mussel. I have had customers call my cell phone and leave messages to place mussel orders, or to increase or decrease their orders. However, I am unable to retrieve these messages unless and until I leave the Jonesport area because you cannot access messages until you are in a cellular service area, which Jonesport is not. I do business nationally, and my customers from more populated, urban areas are very surprised by the problems that we have with the lack of cellular service. I have to tell them not to leave a message on my cell phone if they call it and I do not answer. This causes a huge inconvenience and potentially a loss of business. People in Jonesport should be able to rely on cellular phones to keep tabs on their businesses, as is done most everywhere else. Having a cellular tower in Jonesport would really tie us in to the rest of the business world.

The Board of Selectmen for the Town of Jonesport has endorsed this position. At our meeting on August 18, 2004, the Board adopted a Resolution Supporting US Cellular's Application for Universal Service Funding. In that meeting we discussed US Cellular's proposed expansion into the Jonesport area and how it would impact our community. I have attached a copy of this Resolution as Exhibit Smith-1 to this Testimony.

The provision of cellular service in Jonesport is entirely in the best interests of our community. As a resident, business owner, and First Selectman for the Town of Jonesport, I endorse US Cellular's application for Universal Service Funding and encourage the Public Utilities Commission to approve its application.

Q5. Does this complete your testimony?

A5. Yes.

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**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING US CELLULAR'S APPLICATION FOR UNIVERSAL
SERVICE FUNDING**

WHEREAS, US Cellular has submitted an application to the Public Utilities Commission of the State of Maine (PUC) seeking to qualify for funding from the federal Universal Services Fund, and

WHEREAS, US Cellular will represent to the PUC that, should it obtain PUC certification and become eligible for such funding, it will extend its cellular network to provide US Cellular service in the Town of Jonesport, and

WHEREAS, the extension of US Cellular service to Jonesport is a matter affecting the health, safety and well-being of the citizens of Jonesport,

NOW, THEREFORE, the Town Council of the Town of Jonesport hereby adopts the following Resolution:

Resolved, that the Town Council of the Town of Jonesport finds and declares that the extension of US Cellular service in the Town of Jonesport would be in the public interest of the citizens of the Town. The availability of US Cellular service would

- (1) further the efficient delivery of basic services in the Town, including life saving fire, police, and emergency medical service;
- (2) increase the safety and prosperity of the fishing industry in Moosabec Harbor, Jonesport.
- (3) provide competition for the existing cellular and local (wire line) service providers in the Town;
- (4) contribute to the basic telecommunications infrastructure in the Town of Jonesport and thereby enhance the Town's ability to retain its existing businesses and attract new businesses; and
- (5) improve mobile services in the Town, to the benefit of both Townspeople and through travelers.

Ralph Smith is hereby authorized to attach a copy of this resolution to his pre-filed testimony, which will be submitted to the Public Utilities Commission in support of US Cellular's application.



Ralph L. Smith, Sr., First Selectman

Howard B. Mills, Jr., Second Selectman



Catherine F. Perry, Third Selectman

Board of Selectmen

TOWN OF JONESPORT

Date: August 18, 2004

EXHIBIT 6

**Resolution of the Mississippi Legislature
Regarding Cellular South**

[Separate file attached]

MISSISSIPPI LEGISLATURE

2006 Regular Session

To: Rules

By: Senator(s) Hewes, Browning, Butler, Carmichael, Chaney, Clarke, Dearing, Frazier, Gollott, Harden, Hyde-Smith, Jackson (11th), Jackson (15th), Jackson (32nd), Jordan, King, Mettetal, Pickering, Posey, Ross, Simmons, Thames, Thomas, Walls, White

Senate Concurrent Resolution 538

(As Adopted by Senate and House)

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING CELLULAR SOUTH NETWORK FOR PERFORMING EXEMPLARY SERVICE ON THE MISSISSIPPI GULF COAST DURING THE HURRICANE KATRINA CRISIS.

WHEREAS, founded in 1988, Cellular South is the nation's largest privately held wireless company and the only wireless company headquartered in Mississippi; and

WHEREAS, Cellular South announced that its wireless network in South Mississippi, including the Mississippi Gulf Coast, was fully operational as of Friday, September 9, 2005, three days earlier than previously estimated. Despite Hurricane Katrina's destruction, the Mississippi-based company never lost service in parts of the most storm-ravaged areas, particularly in Hattiesburg and Biloxi and had teams in place that began immediate repairs of cell sites and infrastructure following the storm; and

WHEREAS, on Monday, August 29, 2005, Hurricane Katrina, a Category Four Hurricane, crashed with unrelenting and violent force onto the entire Mississippi Gulf Coast, making landfall at or around Waveland, Mississippi. In one day, the worst natural disaster in our history struck us a grievous blow, leaving a 90-mile swath of destruction along the coast and causing severe damage throughout central and north Mississippi; and

WHEREAS, the reliability of the Cellular South network after the storm is reflected in the fact that the company has seen a 256 percent increase in the number of minutes carried on behalf of other carriers' customers since the storm in the affected area. The increase equates to more than 8.5 million minutes of usage (MOUs) from other carriers' customers, following the storm; and

WHEREAS, "Cellular South employees, some of whom were dealing with their own personal losses, knew that communication was critical for hurricane victims and evacuees and they did everything they could to fully restore our customers' ability to reach loved ones or call for emergency help in the aftermath of the storm," said Hu Meena, company president. "As just one example, The Washington Post noted in one of its stories a Cellular South network technician in Biloxi who literally crawled out of his home that had been destroyed by a fallen tree, got his family to safety and then traveled to the nearest cell site to begin repair work;" and

WHEREAS, Cellular South utilized 300 generators and 20,000 gallons of fuel, as well as over 400 employees dedicated to restoring the network as quickly as possible. Through the dedication and hard work of the team, the network was restored ahead of schedule, and reported record minutes of use upon

restoration of service. Cellular South donated over 1,000 phones to local, state and federal officials who worked and are still working to rebuild Mississippi, as well as to many Red Cross Shelters so that hurricane victims would have a way to communicate with their loved ones. Cellular South donated a total of 50 million free relief minutes to customers in the hardest hit of areas; and

WHEREAS, while it is still early to complete a full assessment, estimates indicate the financial impact of Hurricane Katrina on Cellular South are likely to be in the range of \$8 to \$12 Million Dollars; and yet, the company's goal was to do whatever it took to restore service for customers and take care of employees - both those affected by Hurricane Katrina and those working to restore wireless service:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That

we do hereby commend the executives and employees of Cellular South for their exemplary service, conduct and performance rendered prior to and subsequent to Hurricane Katrina's unprecedented destruction on and near the Mississippi Gulf Coast in August and September, 2005, and we offer our thanks to these individuals for their assistance in providing communications during this critical time, as we endeavor to rebuild our state and restore its economy.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be forwarded to Mr. Hu Meena, President of Cellular South, and be made available to the Capitol Press Corps.